

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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1. SOVIET MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED SHARP ATTACKS ON THE U.S. IN COVERAGE OF INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS. IN ADDITION TO PRAVDA'S NEGATIVE TREATMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 10 SPEECH (REFTEL), SOVIET MEDIA HAVE REPLAYED HANOI'S ASSERTIONS OF FURTHER GAINS BY THE "LIBERATION FORCES" IN SOUTH VIETNAM IN COOPERATION WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION, REPEATED STORIES REGARDING HARDSHIPS SUFFERED BY REFUGEES ALLEGEDLY FORCED OUT BY SAIGON FORCES, COMPLAINED ABOUT USE OF THE "REFUGEE PROBLEM" BY SAIGON TO GAIN OUTSIDE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT, AND REPORTED OPPOSITION IN HANOI, SAIGON AND ELSEWHERE TO THE "FORCED" DISPLACEMENT OF VIETNAMESE ORPHANS.

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2. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW (APRIL 13) BY SERGEI VISHNIVSKIY, SAID THAT PRESIDENT'S APRIL 10 SPEECH SHOWED THAT THE SUPPOSED RE-EXAMINATION OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY HAD NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED AND THAT THE FORCES OF THE OLD WAY STILL HELD POWER. THE ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE SOUGHT "TO LIQUIDATE THE FLAMES OF WAR FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA," AND GOES ON TO BLAME THE CONTINUED FIGHTING ON SAIGON AND ITS "OVERSEAS" SUPPORTERS. VISHNEVSKIY CITES AT LENGTH COMMENTARIES FROM "THE NEW REPUBLIC," "FOREIGN AFFAIRS," "THE NATION" AND EVEN THE "NEW YORK DAILY NEWS" AGAINST FURTHER U.S. SUPPORT FOR SAIGON. HE ATTRIBUTES TO "CERTAIN CIRCLES" IN THE U.S. NOISES ABOUT "COMMUNIST AGGRESSION" AND "DEEP HUMAN TRAGEDY" AND ASKS RHETORICALLY WHETHER THE VIETNAM TRAGEDY COULD NOT BE ENDED BY HOLDING THE SAIGON CLIQUE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS ACTS.

3. PRAVDA (APRIL 13) ALSO CARRIES A TASS ITEM FROM NEW YORK QUOTING CPUSA CHIEF GUS HALL THAT THE ORPHAN LIFT IS A PROPAGANDA EXERCISE DESIGNED TO PREPARE PEOPLE FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM.

4. COMMENT: THIS EXTENSIVE COVERAGE, ESPECIALLY THE FURTHER ATTACKS ON THE U.S., REFLECTS MOSCOW'S INTEREST IN STICKING CLOSE TO HANOI'S LINE AS NORTH VIETNAM APPEARS TO MOVE CLOSER TO ULTIMATE VICTORY. IN VIEW OF THE DISAGREEMENT IN THE U.S. BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES, MOSCOW APPARENTLY FEELS THAT THE ESCALATED RHETORIC WILL HELP IT WITH HANOI--THE ULTIMATE CHIEF VOICE IN INDOCHINA AND PERHAPS PARAMOUNT INFLUENCE IN ALL OF MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA-- AND COST IT LITTLE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.
STOESSEL

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